

1 WE CLAIM:

2 1. A method for developing a plurality of traffic messages comprising:
3 obtaining traffic data indicating a plurality of traffic conditions on a road network,
4 said traffic data includes a location description for each of said traffic conditions;
5 for each of said traffic conditions, converting said location description into a
6 location reference code assigned by a traffic message supplier; and
7 transmitting said traffic messages representing said traffic conditions, each of said
8 traffic messages include said location reference code of one of said traffic conditions.
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10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description is an
11 alphanumeric description.
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13 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description is a text
14 description.
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16 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides a main
17 road along which said traffic condition exists and a cross road proximate said traffic
18 condition on said main road, wherein said main road and said cross road being converted
19 into said location reference code.
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21 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description a landmark
22 proximate said traffic condition on said road network, wherein said landmark being
23 converted into said location reference code.
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25 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides a point
26 of interest proximate said traffic condition on said road network, wherein said point of
27 interest being converted into said location reference code.
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29 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides an
30 address proximate said traffic condition on said road network, wherein said address being
31 converted into said location reference code.

1 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides a
2 latitude and longitude position of said traffic condition, wherein said latitude and
3 longitude position being converted into said location reference code.
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5 9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides a main
6 road along which said traffic condition exists, a start description indicating a beginning of
7 said traffic condition on said main road and an end description indicating an end of said
8 traffic condition on said main road, wherein said main road and said start description
9 being converted into a first location reference code and said main road and said end
10 description being converted into a second location reference code.
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12 10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising determining a number of
13 contiguous location reference codes affected by said traffic condition from said first
14 location reference code to said second location reference code.
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16 11. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting step is performed with a
17 conversion table.
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19 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein if said conversion table does not provide
20 a match between said location description and said location reference code, said traffic
21 condition is excluded from said transmitted traffic messages.
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23 13. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting step comprises geo-
24 coding said location description with a geographic database.
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26 14. The method of Claim 1 wherein said traffic data includes a duration and
27 said method further comprising, for each of said traffic conditions, converting said
28 duration into a duration code assigned by said traffic message supplier.
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1 15. The method of Claim 1 wherein said traffic data includes a duration and
2 said method further comprising determining whether said duration has expired, if so, said
3 traffic condition is excluded from said transmitted traffic messages.

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5 16. The method of Claim 1 further comprising, for each of said traffic
6 conditions, determining a direction affected by said traffic condition.

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8 17. The method of Claim 1 wherein said traffic data includes an event
9 description and said method further comprising for each of said traffic conditions,
10 converting said event description into a event code assigned by said traffic message
11 supplier.

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13 18. The method of Claim 1 wherein said event description is a traffic speed.

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15 19. A method for developing a plurality of traffic messages comprising:
16 obtaining traffic data indicating traffic conditions at a plurality of locations on a
17 road network, said traffic data includes a location description for each of said traffic
18 conditions;

19 for each of said traffic conditions, converting said location description into a
20 location reference code assigned by a traffic message supplier and an extent of a number
21 of consecutive location reference codes affected by said traffic condition;

22 transmitting said traffic messages representing said traffic conditions, each of said
23 traffic messages include said location reference code and said extent of said traffic
24 condition.

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26 20. The method of Claim 19 wherein said location description is an
27 alphanumeric description.

1 21. The method of Claim 19 wherein said location of said traffic data provides
2 a road description of a road along which said traffic condition exists, a start description
3 indicating a beginning of said traffic condition along said road and an end description of
4 said traffic condition along said road, wherein said road description and said start
5 description being converted into said location reference code and said road description
6 and said end description being converted into said extent.

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8 22. The method of Claim 19 further comprising determining said number of
9 contiguous location reference codes affected by said traffic condition.

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11 23. The method of Claim 19 wherein said converting step is performed with a
12 conversion table.

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14 24. The method of Claim 19 further comprising, for each of said traffic
15 conditions, determining a direction affected by said traffic condition.

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17 25. The method of Claim 19 wherein said converting step comprises geo-
18 coding said location description with a geographic database.

19
20 26. A method for developing a plurality of traffic messages comprising:
21 obtaining traffic data indicating traffic conditions on a road network, said traffic
22 data includes a location description for each of said traffic conditions;
23 for each of said traffic conditions, converting said location description into a first
24 location reference code and a second location reference code assigned by a traffic
25 message supplier, wherein said first location reference code indicates where said traffic
26 condition begins and said second location reference code indicates where said traffic
27 condition ends;
28 transmitting said traffic messages representing said traffic conditions, each of said
29 traffic messages include said first location reference code and said second location
30 reference code of said traffic condition.